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Attorney Docket No.: NIDSNZ00101

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Date:

Aug 9, 2005

Signature:

Laura Shires

(Laura Shires)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/669,204  
Confirmation No.: 2631  
Filing Date: September 23, 2003  
Inventor(s): Russell A. HOUSER et al.  
Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR TREATING TISSUE  
Examiner: Ahmed Farah  
Group Art Unit: 3739

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated February 9, 2005 for which a response was due on May 9, 2005. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 3-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to August 9, 2005. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.

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